



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

FRIDAY
MARCH 12, 2004
VOL. 51 NO. 31

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week are trending mostly unchanged. Trade sentiment overall was generally steady. Retail demand was slow to light, moderate where features were active. Food service was light to fairly good, best for fast food promotions. Supplies were sufficient to barely adequate with heavier weights more available. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate entering the weekend. Breast items were short to tight and moving very well. Wings were close balanced to available, and dark meat was at least adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 03/15/04-03/19/04 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

| AREAS | MAJORITY | RANGE | WTD AVG | LOADS |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| Delivered to First Receivers | | | | |
| Chicago | 69.00-72.00 | 68.25-81.00 | 71.71 | 27 |
| Los Angeles | 78.00 | | | |
| New York | 75.00-77.00 | | | |
| Southeast Area | FOB Dock Equivalent | | | |
| Mississippi | 72.50-74.00 | 71.00-77.00 | 73.30 | 81 |

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 72.75 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

| LOADS | RANGE | FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG. |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 875 | 68.00-76.50 | 72.57 |

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

| ITEM | WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND) | VOLUME (000 POUNDS) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| LINE RUN TENDERS | 231.00 | 1,194 |
| BREASTS - B/S | 201.50 | 5,279 |
| BREASTS - WHOLE | 104.50 | 1,744 |
| THIGH MEAT - B/S | 122.50 | 982 |
| LEG QUARTERS | 35.50 | 7,414 |
| WINGS | 125.00 | 2,872 |

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from Monday's majority. The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was generally steady. Offerings continued light for the like trade interest. Movement into all channels was disappointing; demand into retail was slow to light while food service interest was mostly light to moderate. Floor stocks were adequate to long. Weights mostly desirable to occasionally heavy. Demand on parts limited to current needs with wings and tenders drawing best interest. Offerings were moderate to heavy on dark cuts and light on remaining parts. The market tone was fully steady to firm on breast items, steady on wings and about steady to weak on dark meat items.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was at least steady. Demand entering the weekend was fair to moderate with increased trading. Supplies of all sizes were in balance to close, often tight and moving. In the parts structure, breast items were barely adequate to short of a very active call, and clearing at higher levels. Wings were available and moving, and dark meat was mixed, but available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices were unchanged throughout the region, compared with last Fridays' levels. Trading reported for next weeks' deliveries at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings were tight to adequate and confidently held

for current needs. Retailer demand fair to fairly good best for parts. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. Trade sentiment mixed on parts with breast in the strongest position.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – boneless breast 299;

Colorado – whole body 100, whole cut-up 100, roaster 99, boneless breast 349-399, boneless breast 2.5-3# bagged IQF 699, boneless breast tenders 399, split breast 100-199, boneless thighs meat 199, thigh 100, drumstick 100, leg quarters 100,

(deli food service – fried 8 piece mixed 599, whole rotisserie 499 each, sliced chicken breast 699);

Idaho – roaster 99, split breast 299, thigh 79-99, drumstick 79, leg quarter 69,

(deli food service – fried 8 piece mixed 599);

Northern California – whole cut-up 149, roaster 139, Kosher roaster 169, Cornish 199, boneless breast 199, split breast organic 519;

Southern California – whole body 99, whole body marinated 98, roaster 118-119, Cornish 228, boneless breast 399-458, boneless breast steaks 267, boneless breast marinated 499, boneless breast IQF 2.5# bagged 799, boneless breast IQF 3# bagged 699, boneless breast IQF 4# bagged 999, boneless leg meat 168, split breast 89-149, leg quarters 88, leg quarters 10# bag 450, wings 139-159, thighs 87-129, drumstick 87-197, grill pack (2 split breast, 3 leg quarters, 4 thighs) 138;

(deli food service - fried 8 piece mixed 399, whole rotisserie chicken each 498-499).

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair. Offerings of lighter sizes were close balance to adequate with the 3.5 pound and larger birds noted as being available. Retail and distributive movement was fair but unaggressive. The market tone was generally steady. In the parts complex, breast items and tenderloins were short to tight. Drumsticks were slightly better position, legs and leg quarters were at least adequate, thighs and thigh meat were fully adequate to available. Wings were balance to adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased entering the weekend and was generally fair to moderate. Seller offerings were of 3 pound and lighter sizes were adequate to close balance; heavier sizes were more than sufficient. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied but were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. Breast items and tenders were in close balance to tight and cleared. Leg items were adequate to available. Wings were balanced.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| RANGE | 72-91 |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE | 78.47 |
| NO. OF BOXES | 7,146 |
| CUMULATIVE | 03/08/04-03/12/04 79.14 |
| | 03/10/03-03/14/03 58.09 |
| NO. OF BOXES | 03/08/04-03/12/04 31,864 |
| | 03/10/03-03/14/03 39,865 |

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

MARCH 11, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 12, 2004

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

| ITEM | POUNDS | | | WTD AVG | POUNDS | | | | WEEKLY | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| | (000) | RANGE | MAJORITY | | (000) | RANGE | MAJORITY | WTD AVG | (000) | WTD AVG |
| BREAST - B/S | 926 | 194.00-266.00 | 194-199 | 201.40 | 848 | 197.00-266.00 | 200-205 | 207.86 | 4,498 | 200.72 |
| TENDERLOINS | 153 | 220.00-265.00 | 222-225 | 229.33 | 351 | 224.00-267.00 | 226-230 | 248.92 | 1,298 | 234.58 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 87 | 100.00-105.00 | 100-103 | 101.44 | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | 403 | 101.14 |
| FRONT HALVES | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | 290 | 104.22 |
| LEGS | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | 113 | 43.00-60.00 | 43-44 | 44.91 | 565 | 46.67 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 580 | 30.00-35.00 | 30-31 | 30.90 | 556 | 30.00-35.00 | 30-31 | 30.90 | 2,845 | 31.17 |
| LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 968 | 34.00-39.00 | 35-38 | 35.79 | 1,008 | 33.00-39.00 | 34-37 | 35.71 | 4,660 | 36.01 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 284 | 120.00-126.00 | 124-126 | 124.47 | 284 | 120.00-126.00 | 122-124 | 124.47 | 1,420 | 124.47 |
| WINGS (CUT) | 605 | 134.00-144.00 | 137-142 | 138.35 | 580 | 138.00-144.00 | 139-142 | 139.98 | 3,268 | 138.90 |
| DRUMSTICKS | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | TFEWR | |
| THIGHS | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | TOO FEW TO REPORT | | | | TFEWR | |
| B/S THIGHS | 110 | 96.00-127.00 | - | 113.55 | 106 | 106.00-127.00 | - | 115.82 | 558 | 116.20 |

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING — F.O.B. DOCK.

| RANGE | TODAY'S AVERAGE | RANGE | TODAY'S AVERAGE | 5-DAY AVERAGE |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 63.00 - 72.50 | 67.34 | 64.00 - 73.00 | 69.87 | 68.00 |

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was moderate for weekend business. Offerings of breast items and tenderloins remained tight and short. Drums were slightly better balanced. Thighs and b/s thigh meat were usually available, legs and leg quarters were at least adequate. Wings were close balanced to adequate. Retail and distributive movement was about fair. The market tone was fully steady to firm on breast items, at least steady on wings and no better than steady on dark meat cuts.

MARCH 12, 2004

ICE PKD BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT & TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND.

| ITEM | CURRENT NEG TRADING* | WTD AVG** | VOL/LBS | CURRENT NEG TRADING* | WTD AVG** | VOL/LBS | WTD AVG | WEEKLY VOL/LBS |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| BREAST - B/S | 200 | 194.60 | 779,434 | 203 | 197.18 | 749,911 | 194.46 | 3,626,135 |
| TENDERLOINS | 220 | 199.17 | 120,400 | 222-225 | 214.54 | 181,780 | 204.94 | 656,685 |
| BREAST - WITH RIBS | 102-103 | 108.18 | 137,680 | 105-106 | 108.99 | 195,480 | 107.70 | 689,400 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 102 | 104.82 | 82,720 | 105 | 106.27 | 178,840 | 103.56 | 635,960 |
| LEGS | 43-44 | 46.86 | 256,020 | 43-44 | 47.91 | 401,200 | 46.71 | 1,701,261 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 33-34 | 34.57 | 401,554 | 33-34 | 32.70 | 466,601 | 34.16 | 2,115,597 |
| DRUMSTICKS | 32-33 | 40.82 | 169,159 | 32-33 | 42.36 | 143,920 | 38.10 | 778,429 |
| THIGHS | 42-43 | 48.45 | 81,040 | 42-43 | 47.65 | 152,600 | 47.74 | 460,680 |
| B/S THIGHS | 116-117 | 117.85 | 100,000 | 116-117 | 117.58 | 61,880 | 117.68 | 415,340 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 114-115 | 122.70 | 167,360 | 115-116 | 122.95 | 204,160 | 122.55 | 773,600 |
| BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12 | 12.01 | 23,680 | 10-12 | 12.40 | 13,680 | 12.01 | 119,520 |
| LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS) | 35-40 | 33.56 | 24,240 | 35-40 | 35.04 | 18,680 | 34.43 | 95,980 |
| GIZZARDS (HEARTS) | 60-65 | 64.81 | 20,560 | 60-65 | 64.35 | 25,000 | 64.27 | 115,100 |

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

| | ESTIMATED | ACTUAL | AVG WTS | ACTUAL | AVG WTS |
|----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | 03/12 03/11 | 03/10 03/09 | 03/10 03/09 | 03/05 03/03 | |
| ALA | 4,165 3,938 | 3,708 3,851 | 5.20 5.12 | 4,221 5.24 | |
| ARK | 5,170 5,381 | 5,095 5,170 | 5.09 5.02 | 4,828 5.05 | |
| DELMARVA | 2,143 2,166 | 1,964 2,099 | 5.46 5.46 | 2,072 5.38 | |
| KY-LA-TN | 1,931 2,028 | 1,961 1,822 | 4.99 5.02 | 1,828 5.03 | |
| MISS | 2,625 3,080 | 3,065 3,083 | 5.32 5.38 | 2,605 5.42 | |
| NC | 2,054 2,458 | 2,427 2,428 | 6.35 6.37 | 2,608 6.39 | |
| TEXAS | 2,224 2,227 | 2,369 2,307 | 5.08 5.18 | 2,250 5.19 | |
| TOTAL | 20,312 21,278 | 20,589 20,760 | 5.32 5.31 | 20,412 5.34 | |
| MON-FRI | 105,124(A) | | | 104,267(A) | |

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 12-Mar-04 and 13-Mar-04 is estimated to be 30,389,000 down 0.79 percent from a week ago and up 0.7 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,630,000; last year 30,191,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 13-Mar-04 is estimated to be 151,615,000 head down 1 percent from a week ago, and unchanged 0 from a year ago

(Last week 153,459,000; Last year 151,337,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA)

| | RANGE |
|------------------|--------|
| FRESH FRYERS | 93-99 |
| ROASTERS 4# & UP | 95-105 |
| HENS UNDER 5# | |
| HENS OVER 5# | 71-77 |
| DUCKS | - |
| RABBITS-WHOLE | |
| RABBITS-CUT UP | |

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

| | RANGE |
|------------------|------------------|
| FRESH FRYERS | ICE PACK 102-103 |
| ROASTERS 4# & UP | DRY PACK 104-106 |
| | ICE PACK 109 |
| | DRY PACK 105 |
| HENS OVER 5# | ICE PACK 93 |
| | DRY PACK 93-95 |
| DUCKS | 152-175 |

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 28-Feb-04 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Head | 30,710 | 21,166 | 49,163 |
| Avg Weight | 3.61 | 4.78 | 6.31 |
| % of total /1 | 30% | 21% | 49% |

COMPARISONS

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Last week | 33,640 | 22,598 | 44,271 |
| Avg Weight | 3.57 | 4.82 | 6.29 |
| % of total /1 | 33% | 22% | 44% |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Same week, yr ago /2 | 21,450 | 18,021 | 46,347 |
| Avg Weight | 3.63 | 4.46 | 6.22 |
| % of total /1 | 25% | 21% | 54% |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| To date/2004 | 201,555 | 170,426 | 333,927 |
| To date/2003 | 184,799 | 166,037 | 342,890 |

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 06-Mar-04 (PRELIMINARY)

| | YOUNG CHICKENS | LIGHT HENS | HEAVY HENS | TOTAL HENS | DUCKS |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| -----THOUSANDS----- | | | | | |
| HEAD | 153,459 | 1,129 | 1,250 | 2,379 | 440 |
| AVG WT | 5.41 | 3.22 | 7.8 | 5.63 | 5.39 |
| LAST WEEK | 152,700 | 1,139 | 1,252 | 2,391 | 471 |
| SAME WK YR AGO | 151,538 | 1,465 | 1,255 | 2,720 | 380 |
| AVG WT | 4.94 | 3.22 | 7.89 | 5.52 | 6.6 |
| TO-DATE/2004 | 1,379,453 | 11,393 | 11,481 | 22,874 | 4,081 |
| TO-DATE/2003 | 1,350,673 | 15,069 | 12,288 | 27,357 | 3,779 |

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 156.2 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 155.3 million head or 0.9 million head less than or 99% of estimated fryers available.

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - MARCH 09, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

| | RANGE | | RANGE |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Muscovy Ducks - Drakes | 1.25 - 1.40 | Silkie | 3.00 - 3.25ea. |
| Muscovy Ducks - Hens | 1.10 - 1.20 | Pigeons | 4.25 - 5.10ea. |
| Pekin Ducks | 3.25 - 3.50ea. | White Pigeons | 4.35 - 4.75ea. |
| Red Fowl 4-5 LBS | .30 - .45 | Rabbits | |
| Red Fowl 5-6 LBS | .70 - .80 | 4-6 LBS | 1.29 - 1.40 |
| Crossbred Roosters | | Rabbits | |
| 4-6 LBS | .80 - .90 | 6-9 LBS | 1.15 - 1.25 |
| Crossbred Roosters | | Bunnies | 3.00 - 9.00ea. |
| 7-11 LBS | .50 - .60 | Guinea Pigs | 5.00 - 10.00ea. |
| Guinea Fowl | 1.90 - 2.20 | Goats | 30.00 - 40.00ea. |
| Banty Roosters | 3.75 - 5.00ea. | Doves | 5.00 - 5.50ea. |
| Banty Hens | 2.50 - 3.25ea. | Total Coops Sold | 366 |

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 08-MAR-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

| ORIGIN | FROZEN | FRESH |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| LONG ISLAND | 137-140 | 144-146 |
| MOSTLY | | |
| MIDWEST | 124-128 | 125-130 |
| MOSTLY | | |

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

| | RANGE | MOSTLY |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX) | 74.50-77.50 | 76.00-77.50 |
| VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX) | 63.00-85.50 | 67.00-75.00 |

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

| | |
|--------|-------------|
| 12 OZ. | 60.48-71.28 |
| 14 OZ. | 66.96-77.92 |
| 16 OZ. | 73.44-86.67 |

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to at times fairly good. Schedules were full-time. Weights were in the desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, liver at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 08-MAR-2003

| ORIGIN | FROZEN | FRESH |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| MIDWEST AND OTHERS | 107-124 | 125 |
| MOSTLY | | |

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

| WEEK ENDING | MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED | MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE | PCT | AVG WT |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----|--------|
| JANUARY | 31 152.7 | 158.4 | 96% | 5.26 |
| FEBRUARY | 7 155.7 | 159.1 | 98% | 5.22 |
| | 14 154.4 | 158.5 | 97% | 5.16 |
| | 21 154.1 | 157.7 | 98% | 5.05 |
| | 28 154.6 | 156.8 | 99% | 5.17 |
| MARCH | 6 155.3 | 156.2 | 99% | 5.41 |
| YEAR TO DATE | 1396.3 | 1411.5 | 99% | |
| MARCH | 13 | 157.0 | | |
| | 20 | 158.6 | | |

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

| Under Federal Inspection | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| -----THOUSANDS----- | | | | | |
| W/E | 03/13/04 | 03/06/04 | % CHG | 03/15/03 | % CHG |
| Broilers | 151,615 | 153,459 | -.01 | 151,337 | 0 |
| Cattle | 630 | 615 | +2 | 656 | -.04 |
| Hogs | 1,938 | 1,962 | -1 | 1,902 | +2 |

*ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were unchanged on both light and heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate on lights; fair to moderate on heavies. Trading was light on heavy canners. Available offerings were well cleared. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was at least steady on light canners; steady on heavies.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| LIGHT CANNER HENS | HEAVY CANNER HENS |
| (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) | (WITHOUT NECKS) |
| 22.5-30 MAJORITY 25-26 | 31.5-37.5 MAJORITY 34-35 |

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| LIGHT CANNER HENS | HEAVY CANNER HENS |
| (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) | (WITHOUT NECKS) |
| 24-32 MAJORITY 27-27.5 | 33-39 MAJORITY 36.5-37.5 |

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were generally sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| RANGE | MAJORITY |
| 0-12 | 9-11 |

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand for spent hens was light. Offerings remained fully adequate. Schedules were sufficient to cover a fair call for finished product. Values were expected to remain steady.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| RANGE | MAJORITY |
| REMOVAL COST | TOO FEW TO REPORT |

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Removal prices were unchanged to higher. Demand was mostly moderate to instances fairly good with offerings adequate to occasionally short of processor needs. Opinions of value were generally steady.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| RANGE | MAJORITY |
| REMOVAL COST | 4-10 6-8 |

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 01-MAR-04

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate to at least moderate. Offerings were generally about adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was at least steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | TOO FEW TO REPORT |
| AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING | TOO FEW TO REPORT |
| FOB PLANT | TOO FEW TO REPORT |

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Negotiations were too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| AT FARM BUYER LOADING | TOO FEW TO REPORT |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules moderate. Offerings adequate.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Washington, DC | Voice | (202)720-6911 | Mike Sheats |
| | Fax | (202)720-2403 | (Chief) |
| Atlanta, GA | Voice | (404)562-5850 | Johnny Freeman |
| | Fax | (404)562-5875 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (404)562-5856 | |
| Jackson, MS | Voice | (601)965-4662 | Gary Brown |
| | Fax | (601)965-4661 | (Southern States Area Supervisor) |
| Des Moines, IA | Voice | (515)284-4471 | Mary L. Adkins |
| | Fax | (515)284-4468 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (515)284-4545 | |
| Los Angeles, CA | Voice | (213)534-1330 | Jim Derby |
| | Fax | (213)534-1333 | (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Recorded | (213)534-1335 | |